पर प्राइवेट लोगों से पैसा ले रखा है, उसके लिए उन्हें पैसा दिया जाए। मैं यह संतोष के साथ और साथ ही फ़ख के साथ कह रहा हूं कि पिछले समय में इसमें काफी बड़ा अंतर आया है। लोगों को बैंकों के जरिए वह पैसा मिल पाया है, जिससे उनके जीवन में एक बहुत बड़ा अंतर आया है।

श्री विक्रम वर्मा: सभापति जी, जैसाकि अभी बताया गया है कि इतना-इतना ऋण माफ हुआ है, इतना सब कुछ हुआ है। मैं यह पूछना चाहता हूं कि इस राशि में से बैंकों ने पूर्व में क्या एन.पी.ए. या राइट ऑफ किया था? वह कुल कितनी राशि थी और उससे कितने किसान लाभान्वित हैं? क्या उस राशि को भी इस ऋण मुक्ति की राशि में समाहित कर लिया गया है? कृपया जवाब दें

श्री पवन कुमार बंसल: सभापति जी, माननीय सदस्य जानते हैं कि एन.पी.ए. के लिए, जो कृषि क्षेत्र में होता है, वह अठारह महीनों का बन जाता है। अगर उसके दो साइकल्स के लिए पैसा न दिया जाए, वह एन.पी.ए. बनता है, इस स्कीम में एन.पी.ए. शब्द का इस्तेमाल नहीं हुआ था, इसमें यह इस्तेमाल हुआ था कि 31 मार्च, 2007 से पहले किन लोगों को ऋण की अदायगी हुई थी...। जिन लोगों का अतिदेय था, which was overdue as on 31st December, 2007 और 29 फरवरी, 2008 तक जिसका भुगतान वापस नहीं हो पाया था, वे सभी के सभी इसमें शामिल हुए हैं ...(**व्यवधान**)...

श्री विक्रम वर्मा : सर, मेरा प्रश्न यह है कि ...(**व्यवधान**)...

श्री पवन कुमार बंसल : और, सर, write-off वे हुए हैं, जो 31 दिसम्बर, 2007 तक अतिदेय थे, वे सभी के सभी, उनमें एनपीए भी है, जो भी उस वक्त अतिदेय थे, वे माफ हुए हैं या राहत मिली है।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

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WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Depletion of foreign exchange reserves

*143. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA :
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large amount of the country's foreign exchange reserves has depleted in the last six months;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the fast depletion of foreign exchange reserves has serious implications and depreciation on the value of rupee; and

(d) if so, the steps Government proposes to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) The foreign exchange reserves comprising Foreign Currency Assets (FCA), Gold, Special Drawing Rights and Reserve Tranche Position with IMF, declined from a level of US $ 295.31 billion at the end of August, 2008 to a level of US $ 249.69 billion on February 13, 2009.

(b) Intervention by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in the foreign exchange market to smoothen exchange rate volatility and valuation changes due to *inter se* movement of US dollar against other currencies were major factors responsible for decline in foreign exchange reserves.

(c) and (d) Deceleration in the capital flows and a widening trade deficit in 2008-09 have resulted in a steady depreciation of the rupee. With the deepening of the global financial crisis in September, 2008, there has been further contraction in the capital flows and a decline in the exports. All these factors have resulted in decline in value of Rupee from Rs. 40.02 in April, 2008 to Rs. 48.63 per US dollar in December, 2008. The exchange rate was Rs. 48.71 per US dollar during the second week of February, 2009.

The exchange rate policy is guided by the broad principles of careful monitoring and management of exchange rates with flexibility, without a fixed or a pre-announced target or a band, while allowing the underlying demand and supply conditions to determine the exchange rate movements over a period in an orderly manner. Subject to this predominant objective, RBI intervenes in the foreign exchange market to reduce excess volatility prevent the emergence of destabilizing speculative activities, maintaining adequate level of reserves, and developing an orderly foreign exchange market.

Extradition treaty with Nepal

*145. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Nepal have decided to modify the existing extradition treaty that would allow the two countries to handover criminals of third country.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the nexus between trans-border criminals is increasing and in the absence of extradition treaty, criminals are freely enjoying; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d) An extradition treaty, concluded on October 2, 1953, is currently in force between India and Nepal. The text of a new extradition treaty has been finalised between the two Governments. The new extradition treaty was initiated in January, 2005 and awaits formal signatures. Under the provisions of the new treaty, it is possible to extradite third country nationals for extraditable offences as described in the treaty.

Debt relief to farmers

*149. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL:
SHRI OM PRAKASH MATHUR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) out of the budgetary allocation of Rs. 60,000 crore given as debt relief to the farmers during the financial year 2008-09, how many farmers have taken advantage of loan waiver scheme indicating the total amount of loan reimbursed/outstanding against them, State-wise, till date;

(b) whether loan taken by farmers from the private lenders has also been waived off; and